



LANGS Meeting
Friday 13 June 2025, 09.30-15.00

Meeting notes

	Meeting opens	
	<p>Welcome from Laura Morris and Robbie Kirk</p> <p>View slides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A reminder that LANGS is a welcoming and purposeful space and that feedback, ideas and support are always welcome from group members.• A new logo for LANGS was shared with the group.• A revised and draft mission statement shared with the group; no comments or amendments from the floor: <p><i>“Our vision is for all children and young people in Scotland to experience rich, inclusive and progressive language learning that empowers them to communicate confidently, embrace cultural diversity, and engage as active global citizens.</i></p> <p><i>Through strategic collaboration and leadership, the Languages Network Group Scotland works to provide a strong national voice for language education in Scotland.”</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LANGS are seeking representation from all local authorities.• Moving forward:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New dedicated email inbox○ Fill in gaps of missing representation○ A potential new website to centralise links○ 2 virtual meetings and 1 in person per year○ Limit virtual meetings to 90 mins○ Provide input to the CIC	

	<p>LANGS Chairs shared a video statement from Jenny Gilruth MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflected on the issues around uptake of languages and attitudes towards languages. • Offered ideas and areas for improvement. • Reminded language teachers that our work matters and to remain steadfast in the commitment to the learning of languages at all levels of Scottish Education. <p>Robbie commented that languages being recognised by the Cabinet Secretary in this way shows that they are valued by the Scottish Government.</p>	
	<p>Keynote – Dr Fiona Noble</p> <p>View slides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflections on personal, professional and language transitions. • Comments offered on the CIC as a transitional phase and the idea that we are in the messy middle. • A reflection also on AI and the transition we all must make as it becomes a feature in the modern world. 	
	<p>Education Scotland update from Louise Glen</p> <p>View slides</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A major and significant review of Scotland’s curriculum is happening with the Curriculum Improvement Cycle (CIC). • The process and the technical framework are being reviewed by teachers to ensure that they meet the needs of learners. • Contributors are being asked to reflect on the Big Ideas from the British Columbia model on Education. • Curriculum could be described as a ‘mile wide and an inch deep’ leading to calls for a renewed focus on knowledge as well as skills. • The CIC will provide clarity in the new technical framework. • John Paul Cassidy from HMle spoke about the importance of Self-Evaluation in developing and planning for the future. • Introduction to the new team at Education Scotland. There are currently 7 members of the team but following the retirement of Louise and Shona in August 2025, there will be 5 team members. 	
	<p>Activity: Easing transitions</p> <p>Members had the chance to reflect on transitions and the challenges and opportunities that transitions at all levels can provide.</p>	

	<p>SCILT update from Fhiona MacKay</p> <p>View slide</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reminder about CCEd qualifications for secondary language teachers who wish to add another language and how to access these courses. Specific mention of Mandarin and the fact there are grants to support with residency periods in China. • Language Explorers Scotland – schools can apply for mentor programme aimed at improving uptake in secondary schools. • Moving forward with languages pupil conference – in-person taking place 10 Sep; online taking place 19 Nov. • Congratulations to the 31 teachers who have received GTCS Professional Recognition through the Scotland's Languages Leadership Programme. • https://scilt.org.uk/ 	
	<p>Activity – Embracing change</p> <p>Members had the chance to reflect on AI in languages education and the challenges and opportunities it can bring.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunities as a teaching tool: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Chat GPT ○ CoPilot ○ Magic School AI • Challenges: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Safeguarding ○ Plagiarism ○ Adapting assessment ○ What are the messages we're sending by using AI? • Impact on teaching and learning. • Authenticity and integrity – guidelines and policies needed. • Culture and AI. • Interesting to see how AI is affecting different sectors – big problem at universities. 	
	<p>Just a minute updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leo Siebert, Goethe-Institut Glasgow <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Author and illustrator visits for Primary Schools - the renowned author and illustrator Viviane Schwarz is coming to primary schools alongside the Goethe-Institut and will run an exciting programme for your pupils. Apply until 4th July – visits taking place 15-19 September. https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/unt/kum/dfk/author-tour-schwarz.html ○ German Teachers' Day in Glasgow on 6th September - will provide informative workshops, practical tips and hands-on materials to effectively motivate young learners, and chances to network with other German teachers. https://www.goethe.de/ins/gb/en/spr/unt/ver/ver.cfm?event_id=26714447 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charlotte Hyvernaud, Institut français d’Ecosse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View slides ○ Concours de la francophonie – 10th anniversary next March. ○ Online teaching training activities available from IFE. ○ Cultural institutions in Scotland available to support teachers in the classroom. IFE has cinema which can be booked for viewings. ○ https://www.ifecosse.org.uk/education/#/ • Jane Halstead, British Council Scotland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Thanks to those who were involved in Language Trends this year, confirmation it will be returning next year. ○ Franco-British Youth Ocean Conference- taking place in France in November, ‘Year of the sea’. Five schools in Scotland to partner with French schools and attend. Applications being reviewed now. ○ https://scotland.britishcouncil.org/ • Nabila Lakourai, Alliance Française <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AF is a global network with 11 centres in the UK, Glasgow the only one in Scotland. ○ Offer classes for all purposes and levels, including N5 exam prep. ○ Open day 16 Aug. ○ https://www.afglasgow.org.uk/ • Fiona Barclay, UCFLS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View slides ○ In addition to LES and Moving forward programmes mentioned in SCILT update, also working with SCILT on Language Ambassadors Programme. Online sessions which schools can sign up to. Some universities also able to offer in-person visits from Language Ambassadors. ○ Reaching out to wider workforce to engage. • E-Sgoil <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ N4-AH Gàidhlig and Gaelic (Learners) online courses available. ○ https://e-sgoil.com/gaidhlig/n5-h-ah-gaelicgaidhlig-courses-2025-26-schools/ <p>Additional updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • French Film Festival UK learning programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ View programme ○ French language films available free of charge to all schools now available. For more information sign up to FFF UK newsletter on their website: https://frenchfilmfestival.org.uk/ 	
	<p>Talk and trade activity</p> <p>Members had the opportunity to share with colleagues and to discuss successes and challenges in their contexts.</p>	
	<p>Closing remarks and thanks from Chairs</p>	

	Meeting ends	
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